

King Charles I, D.A. Sturdza and the American Diplomatic Mission in Romania (1902 - 1905)

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***Resumeé:** American diplomatic reports from those years described the economical situation in Romania confronted with the most difficult financial crisis (1899 - 1903), and explained how the liberal government led by D.A. Sturdza succeeded to win over the crisis. Discussions between the American diplomat John Brinkerhoff Jackson (1862 -1920) and King Charles I and Prime-Minister present also a great interest.*

***Key words:** financial crisis, diplomatic report, public debt.*

The American minister John Brinkerhoff Jackson (1862 - 1920) presented in his diplomatic reports the economic and political situation in Romania in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 1899 -1902 caused by the drought of the years 1898 - 1899. The American minister presented the failure of the measures taken by the Conservative Party who led the country from April 1899 to February 1901 – measures of increasing the taxes and the trying to sold some of the vital ressources of the country, measures who were not accepted by the King Charles Ist and liberal leaders

- and the succes of the measures taken by the Liberal Party who governed from February 1901 to December 1904. The liberals measures at once imposed a policy of retrenchement: reducing number of employés in Departments, reductions in salaries of State employés, including a voluntary reduction by the King of a similar proportion of his civil list, saving effected in Railway Department¹. In less than two years the economical situation in Romania was brought to a normal state. Moreover at the next severe drought in 1904 the liberal Government was able to provide 38 million lei to buy cereal in order to prevent starvation among peasants².

For us the main importance of these reports is that they show us the categoric way the leaders of Romania, King Charles Ist and Prime Minister D.A. Sturdza opposed to the penetration of the American capital in the Romanian economy: „At that time His Majesty, in refering to Mr. Rockefeller, in conversation with the British Minister, said there was only room for one King in Roumania and he was already there.” This attitude was determined by the trust the Romanian leadership had in the force of German support and by the fact that the German and Austro-Hungarian

¹ Vezi Ion Mamina, Ion Bulei, *Guverne și guvernanți 1866 -1916*, Editura Silex, București, 1994, pp. 111 – 113.

² In order to make a comparison the bridge of Cernavoda costed ten years ago 35 million lei.

capital was dominating at that time the Romanian economy. Also interesting is the conviction of the King that United States of America must take measures to control the powerful trusts like Rockefeller, and that will really happen in 1911. But the most important fact that these diplomatic reports present us is that the American minister proved to the Secretary of State that the Jews are not exactly persecuted in Romania despite the allegations of the most European journals.

An interesting piece is the document nr. 26 where Queen Elisabeth rejected allegation of having anti-jewish feelings presented the facts that her private secretary is a Jew and she is an admirer of Jewish musicians who perform often in her residence.

All these reasons make from these reports a very important historical source for that period from the modern Romanian history.

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Nr. 20 Roumanian Series

Legation of the United States

Athens, March 10, 1902

To the Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir:

During the last ten years all the young Balcan States have been involved in financial difficulties. Greece, Servia [Serbia], and

Bulgaria have been compelled to accept the principle of foreign control. Romania alone has not yet bowed to the yoke. Each of these countries has initiated a costly scheme of public works which, for the present furnishes no return comensurate with the outlay incurred. Each has established an elaboarate educational system which has resulted in an increasing number of those who, disdaining manual labor, expect to be supported in the public service. The Government is thus compelled to maintain a host of unnecessary functionaries. Another source of financial embarrassment is found in the prevailing corruption, in part the legacy from the Turkish government. The enormous military expenditure is also one of the gravest causes of economic exhaustion; but in military matters the junior members of the European family are not always free agents. Should Bulgaria determine to reduce her standing army she would undoubtedly meet with an interdict from Russia; should Roumania adopt a similar course Austria-Hungary would interpose an objection.

The inevitable result has been excessive borrowing abroad. The temptation to resort to the foreign money markets is all the greater owing to the high rate of interests at home. Except in Greece, private liberality has done little to aid in providing schools, hospitals, barracks, prisons, etc. the circulation of foreign capital creates a certain artificial prosperity liable to sudden interruption

by a crisis in the european money market or by some serious catastrophe at home. A combination of these factors has led to the present critical situation in Roumania.

To judge by the figures of successive budgets the economic progress of Roumania has been almost phenomenal. Under the rule of King Charles that country has made gigantic strides. But it would be unsafe to take the budget figures as an accurate index of increasing prosperity without making allowance for the inflation produced by a succession of foreign loans. On the other hand the extraordinary expenditure incurred within this period must be considered as well as the heavy drain on the national resources resulting from an accumulation of external debt. Of these extraordinary expenditures the principal outlay has been on public works, railways and rolling stock, on harbours, docks and roads, on bridges, schools and various public buildings. A large proportion may be regarded as ultimately productive and therefore justifiable, but many of the constructions might have waited, and the practice of defraying working expenses from extraordinary revenue is altogether indefensible. The remainder of the debt has been devoted to military expenditure, or to cover budgetary deficits. For the military outlay there is something to show. The army compares favourably in the perfection of its equipment with any other of its size in Europe. An elaborate line of defenses extends from

Fokcshani to Galatz, and Bucharest has been made a great fortified centre. These results, however, have been achieved by an extraordinary expenditure, exceeding 266,000,000 lei, or francs. For this immense outlay the best excuse is the precarious position of Roumania, the dangers from without, and her uncertain future. The amount required to meet various deficits is given as 159,000,000; but this is far from represents the extent to which every kind of curent expenditure was made good from the proceeds of special loans. The State, in fact, lived from hand to mouth; nobody retrenched, while Berlin financiers provided the wherewithal.

Meanwhile the charge for the service of the foreign debt continued to increase; and in 1900 it was nearly forty per cent of the expenditure in a budget of 238,000,000. In a community with a variety of internal resources such a proportion might be regarded as serious though not disquieting. But Roumania is purely an agricultural country practically dependent on the harvest. Should this fail she commands no other source of revenue. The balance of trade has been adverse; from 1877 to 1898 the value of imports exceeded that of exports by an annual average of 80,000,000. Romanians of the upper classes travel much abroad and spend, it has been estimated, 20,000,000 lei (francs) annually in foreign countries. It must have been clear to responsible statesmen and

observers that the outward show of prosperity was illusory, and that any serious check to agricultural production must be attended by a financial crisis. A policy of thrift is peculiarly imperative in the case of Roumania where climatic conditions and the configuration of the country expose the soil to recurrent droughts and floods. Warnings were frequent: in 1887 drought destroyed the maize crop which led to a peasant uprising, and some financial reforms; in 1894 another drought produced an acute crisis similar to the present but Berlin financiers came to the rescue; in 1897 the lowland crops were destroyed by inundations, and the grain stores at Galatz were swept away by the flood. Then came the drought of 1899. Crops were ruined, pastures withered out, cattle died, and in few months peasants were starving. At the bulk of the urban population derives its substance directly or indirectly from the grain trade, an acute commercial crisis followed. The banks did what possible to mitigate the stress of the situation, but the banks became straitened because of a new factor – a crisis in the European money market. The Roumanian banks were subjected to pressure from without, and Roumanian merchants were called upon to make good their debts. Retail dealers could not sell their goods and the result was an enormous decrease of importation and loss to the Treasury under the head of indirect taxation. There was a corresponding decline in other branches of the revenue. The

traditional foreign loan was no longer available except on terms compromising the future of the State.

Such was the origin of the serious crisis which afflicts Roumania. The situation, however, is not beyond remedy, though it would be a grave error to suppose the trouble is of transitory character, and that a few good harvests will put everything to rights. Before stating measures which have been taken to cope with the serious situation in this country, it is well to mention that in certain respects Roumania compares favourably with other states of the peninsula. The revenue, for instance, is satisfactorily collected, the huge arrears found in Servian and Grecian budgets being absent. Again the adoption, in 1889, of the gold standard was a wise measure. Moreover while corruption exists there is on the whole, more honesty in dealing with public funds than is apparent elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

The budget 1898-1899 showed a surplus of 11,500,000 lei, but the state of the exchequer not being satisfactory, and the Government being unable to effect a foreign loan, it was obliged to issue Treasury bonds at short terms amounting to 64,500,000 lei. Then came the failure of the harvest, and a resort to a fresh issue of Treasury bonds. Negotiations resumed with Berlin proving unsuccessful the situation became grave. The Financial group³ with

³ Hansemann and Disconto-Gesellschaft in Berlin.

which negotiations had been conducted finally agreed to accept Treasury bonds for 175,000,000 nominal at a net price of 89 ½ , the bonds bearing 3 per cent interest and redeemable on December 31, 1904. How this large amount of floating debt is to be disposed of in the allotted time is the problem of the present situation. Under the arrangement the State may not contract any new foreign obligation until the bonds have been redeemed or consolidated, an even internal loan is forbidden except in case of war.

A new situation had to be faced in 1900 – 1901 demanding retrenchment and increased taxation. The estimate for both expenditure and receipts was greatly in excess of all previous estimates, the Government being unwilling to take the receipts of an exceptionally unfortunate year as a basis for its figures. The enduring effects of such a crisis on the taxable capacity of the population appear to have been inadequately realised. A surplus of 7,000,000 was anticipated, but the budget closed with a deficit of 27,500,000 lei.

When in July, 1900, M. Carp became President of the Council and Minister of Finance great hopes were founded on combination he was expected to effect. Like his predecessors he had faith in additional taxation and he aimed at developing sources of revenue hitherto untapped. A new method of assessing the tax on tzuica, a kind of liquor extracted from plums, was the cause of

serious riots in the country. Aiming to reach the wealthier classes who escape their due share of the public burden in Roumania, Mr. Carp imposed additional direct taxation of 5,500,000 lei contribution being proportional to the incomes of taxpayers. Receipts were put down more than 18,000,000 below the estimates of the preceding year, the expenditures being placed at the same amount, 227,203,000 lei. This was a step in the right direction but had it been applied would have resulted in deficit. Mr. Carp and his friends were averse to economies on the ground that „Economies are not compatible with the dignity of Roumania.” Moreover, an aggregate deficit of 43,000,000 had still to be provided for. To meet this they fell back on proposals to alienate State property, including the sale of the cigarette paper monopoly for thirteen years, the surrender of Governments shares in the National Bank, the sale of the State forests, and the lease to the American Standard Oil Company of petroleum-bearing undersoil. The first two have been carried out, the third is under consideration, but the fourth has been abandoned. A proposal for the sale of the Merchant Marine was discussed, but no action was taken. Liberal politicians attacked the whole programme, which they denounced as the „Liquidation of Roumania”.

At an extraordinary session of the national legislature, Mr. Carp introduced his budget. The great land proprietors who form

the core of the old conservative party, gave evidence of hostility which culminated in an attack on the Ministry's proposal to increase the tax on licenses for trades and professions. Mr. Carp appealed to the Chamber of Deputies for a vote of confidence. This being refused by a majority of one, he resigned and a brief interregnum followed until on February 27, 1901, the King recalled to power Mr. Sturdza, the present President of the Councils of Ministers.

The veteran Liberal leader at once inaugurated a policy of retrenchement. The figures of Mr. Sturdza's budget, which has been in application since April 13, 1901, are worthy of special attention as they mark the beginning of a new system on the success of which the financial future of Roumania depends. Conservation in the preparation of estimates of revenue and economy in expenditure are apparently the guiding principles of Mr. Sturdza's administration.

The receipts are estimated at 218,500,000 lei, as compared with 245,750,000 previously anticipated, as follows:

Direct Taxes:	44,015 00 lei
Indirect Taxes:	56,410,000 lei
State Monopolies:	52,380,000 lei
Ministry of Domains:	22,200,000 lei
Ministry of Public Works:	21,520,000 lei

Ministry of Interior:	10,345,000 lei
Ministry of Finance:	3,334,000 lei
Ministry of Foreign Affairs:	202,000 lei
Ministry of Public Instruction:	600,000 lei
Ministry of Justice:	431,000 lei
Various:	7,810,000 lei
Total:	218,500,000 lei

In accordance with the policy of the Sturdza administration new contributions to the extent of 5,500,000 are to be in the main derived from an augmentation of direct taxes, as indicated:

Increase of the tax on real property:	1,000,000 lei
Increase of 10% on direct taxes:	3,185,000 lei
Increase of 1% on direct inheritances:	600,000 lei
Increase of 1 lei on the 25 registration tax:	715,000 lei
Total	5,500,000 lei

But the most noteworthy feature of Mr. Sturdza's budget is the great series of economic enforced, aggregating over 25,500,000 lei, compared with last year's estimates, and are the following:

Reducing number of employes in Departments:	8,796, 112 lei
Saving in materials:	5,885,505 lei
Reductions in salaries of State employes:	6,838,883

lei.

Saving effected in Railway Department:	5,065,610 lei
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Total: 26,586,110 lei

Expenditures have been fixed at the same amount in the aggregate as the estimated receipts, and all disbursements each month are kept specified limits.

The estimated expenditures for 1901 - 1902 are as follows:

Public debt:	86,040,328 lei
Ministry of War:	32,820,000 lei
Ministry of Finance:	35, 328,113 lei
Ministry of Public Instruction:	24,459,190 lei
Ministry of Interiors:	15,359,452 lei
Ministry of Public Works:	5,990,000 lei
Ministry of Justice:	5,230,976 lei
Ministry of Domains:	4,866,872 lei
Ministry of Foreign Affairs:	1,539,872 lei
Council of Ministers:	55,408 lei
Fund for Supplementary (Extraordinary) Credits:	817,092 lei

Total: 218,500,000 lei

It is anounced that the receipts for the last six month have considerably exceeded expenditures, and foreign interests coupons have been promptly met from ordinary revenue. Should the reign of economy continue, should the european money market be favourable, and should the harvests of the next few years prove for average productiveness, there is reason to hope that the loan of

175,000,000 lei in Treasury bonds can be converted into a consolidated loan, on fairly favourable terms. Failing to accomplish this is the only assistance from abroad available will be in the form of possibly a guaranteed loan with conceded revenues and foreign supervision. To avert this the greatest sacrifice would unquestionable be made. Few states possess a proportionally greater reserve of productive property than Roumania. It would be premature, however, to outline at the present time any scheme of liquidation that would assure a desired result.

Apart from the measures called for by the existing crisis in Roumania much remains to be done in order to enable the country to stand the stress of similar misfortunes in the future. Not only must prevision be made against the recurrence of bad seasons, but to save the agricultural interests from the disastrous effects of foreign competition. Romania possesses few manufacturing industries. To promote these capital must be attracted from abroad. More scientific methods of cultivation should be introduced for the improvement for agricultural and horticultural should be no longer neglected. The Roumanian peasant is thriftless and unenterprising and it will be difficult to induce him to abandon his conservative ways. The landowning class has certainly neglected its duties, many living extravagantly abroad with little thought for the toilers at home. What could be done to stimulate new industries, to

improve agriculture and to better the condition of the masses of the people may best be seen on the Royal estates which present a model of enlightened and beneficent administration. Should this example be followed a great development of the national resources of Roumania will be the result.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant

Charles S. Francis⁴

(National Archives of Romania (onwards ANR) Microfilms USA., r. 21, c.100 – 104).

2

Confidential Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Athens, August 8, 1902

To the Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 14, Romanian Series, dated July 17, 1902, relative to the proposed naturalisation treaty between the United States and Roumania.

⁴ Francis, Charles Spencer (1853 - 1911) American diplomat, minister at Athens from 1900, and Bucharest (October 16 1901 – December 24 1902), ambassador at Vienna (1906 -1910).

Since the draft of the treaty, aproved by the Departament, was submitted to the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs nothing further has been accomplished, as the Roumanian Government refused to consider the project favourably.

Upon the receipt of your dispatch, I called, upon the Roumanian Minister to Greece⁵ who has within a few days returned from Roumania, and asked him if his Government, after examination, had found the draft of the naturalisation treaty submitted to it, acceptable.

Mr. Ghica told me that just before leaving Bucharest he had a long audience with the King, during most of which relations with the US were discussed. His Majesty told Mr. Ghica that he considered a naturalisation treaty between the US and Roumania unnecessary, and he did not favour considering the matter at all.

Upon my endeavoring to point out to Mr. Ghica that in our opinion such a treaty would be of great advantage to both countries, he said that he would be perfectly frank with me and tell me the real objection that the King had expressed against the propose treaty.

According to His Majesty's opinion a naturalisation treaty would be most injurious to Roumania for the reason that it would

⁵ Ghica, I. Dimitrie, Romanian minister in Athens (Mai 16th 1901 – April 1st 1905).

complicate the already troublesome Jewish question in that country.

As you stated in your dispatch on this subject, on account of discrimination against them, a large number of Roumanian Jews are driven from Roumania and a majority of them take refuge to America. If, therefore, there were a naturalisation treaty these Jews would return to Romania, and as American citizens, claim rights, and privileges to which they were not, before emigration entitled. The King also fears that with a naturalisation treaty between the two countries, an even larger numbers of Jews would emigrate to America and for the express purpose of returning to Roumania and claiming protection as American citizens.

I expressed to Mr. Ghica my regret that the United States and Roumania had been unable to conclude any of the proposed treaties, and expressed the hope that he would used his efforts to bring about a favourable consideration of the Naturalisation Treaty, but as he assured me that the Ministry and the members of the Government, shared the unwillingness of King to consider such a treaty, I have not, therefore, communicated with the Romanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and shall await further instructions from the Departament before so doing.

During my talk with the Roumanian Minister he told me confidentially of his further conversation with the King on

American matters. He said that His Majesty, and the members of the Government were hurt, or one might even use the word „vexed” that none of the American Ministers accredited to Roumania were seen more often in Bucharest. That they came to that city for a few days each year and to present their letters of Credence and Recall. This was all the more to be regretted as not even the US Vice-Consul General was an American, and there was no one with whom the Government could discuss matters. The best results could not always be obtained by correspondence between Bucharest and Athens, nor did it seem right or proper that all business between Roumania and United States should be done through the Roumanian Legation at Athens. The King further expressed the opinion that the relations between the two countries could be made closer if he himself could more often have the opportunity of discussing important questions with the representatives of the United States, and he especially regretted that had not been possible on the subject of the naturalisation treaty.

Mr. Ghica stated frankly that he thought that this feeling of vexation had something to do with the unwillingness of his Government to show any interest in the different treaties proposed.

I judge also, personally, from the general tone of our conversation, although it was not so stated, that the Government of

Roumania is somewhat annoyed at the failure to conclude an extradition treaty, for which it is most anxious and which is of the greatest importance to that country, and, that nothing will be done about a naturalisation treaty until an extradition treaty is concluded⁶.

I am, sir, your obedient servant

Charles S. Wilson

Charge d'affaires ad interim

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21 c. 125 -127.

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Nr. 2 Romanian Series Confidential

Legation of the United States,

Athens, February 9, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State,

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that soon after my arrival in Athens, I addressed a note to the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, informing him of my appointment and stating that I intended to visit Bucharest at the earliest practicable opportunity

⁶ The answer from Washington was the famous note Hay from August 11th 1902.

and to seek an audience to His Majesty the King of Roumania in order to present him the President's letter of Credential, the office copy of which I duly enclosed. Yesterday I received a call from the Roumanian Minister here, who told me that he had been instructed to inform me of the due receipt of my note and to say that – although that note was the first communication received at Bucharest which contained official information of my appointment, and although the King's „agreement” thereto had not been requested – His Majesty was ready to waive the customary formalities and to receive me, in view of my personality and of the report made about me by the Roumanian Minister at Berlin⁷. I replied that, so far as I aware, it was not the practice of the United States Government to ask for the usual „agreement” in the case of its ministers, that the records failed to show that any request had been made in the case of my several predecessors, and that the American practice was understood and generally reciprocated by those countries which had ministers accredited to the United States residing in Washington. Mr. Ghica, the Minister here, said that Mr. Bratiano, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, was probably not acquainted with what I had just told him, and that he would

⁷ Alexandru Beldiman (1855 - 1924) Romanian diplomat, son of the antimonarchic journalist with the same name, minister at Belgrade (July – October 1888) and Berlin (January 18/30 1896 – August 15/28 1916).

communicate with him at once, but that in my case, in any event, no difficulty would be made.

Mr. Ghica then went on to talk about the general relations between the United States and Roumania. He said that the King was especially desirous to have Americans know his country better and His Majesty hoped to see more of the American Ministers in the future than has heretofore been the case. He used the English word „touchy” in referring to the feelings of the King and the Romanian Government with regard to the American Minister’s being instructed to reside at Athens. I explained that Greece was a maritime country, that American naval and merchant vessels visited Greek ports from time to time, and that Greece was the first of the Balkan States to which an American Minister had been sent [illegible document]

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson⁸

ANR, Microfilms USA., r. 21, c. 103.

⁸ Jackson Brinkerhoff, John (1862 - 1920) American diplomat, minister resident at Athens, and also responsible for Belgrade and Bucharest (October 13 1902, from July 5 1903 diplomatic agent at Sofia till July 25 1905), between 1905 -1907 was responsibel for Cetinje, Sofia and Athens, then at Teheran (1907 - 1909), Havana (1909 -1911) and again at Belgrade and Bucharest (1911 - October 1913).

Nr. 8 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Athens, April 13, 1903

To the Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm the text of the telegram sent you from Bucharest on the 7th instant, as follows:

„Presented letters. Leave for Belgrade Thursday”

Referring to my despatch No. 31 Greek series, of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to report that I left Athens on Friday, March 27th, and travelling by the most direct route and with all possible despatch, arrived in Bucharest about noon on Tuesday, March 31st. Had it not been for fog in the Black Sea, which prevented our reaching Constanza until after the last train on Monday had left for Bucharest, I might have arrived about twelve hours earlier. On the afternoon of my arrival I called at the Foreign Office, made the acquaintance of Mr. Bratiano, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and left a written request for an audience with the King of Roumania in order to present my own letter of credence and Mr. Francis’ letter of respect. Mr. Bratiano greeted me cordially, but he told me that, in view of recent occurrences his

government had seriously considered whether it would not be more conducive to good relations between Roumania and the United States, to have no American Minister accredited to Roumania, than to have one who was not in a position to become acquainted with the country about which it was his duty to report. He then said that owing to the personal reports which had been received about me from Berlin and Athens, a decision had been made to permit matters to remain as they have been to the present.

Instead of communicating with the Court at once, Mr. Bratiano preferred for reason, to wait until Saturday, the day of the regular audience with the King before informing His Majesty officially of my arrival. On Saturday afternoon, however, I received notification that my audience would take place the following Tuesday. Accordingly, on April 7th, I had the honor of being received by His Majesty with the customary ceremonial. As no formal speech was required, I made use of German language, out of personal compliment to the King who speaks but little if any English, and in handing him my letters I stated that I had been charged to convey to him the President's greetings and the assurance of the best wishes of the United States for the prosperity of Roumania. I said that I have been instructed to endeavour to advance the interests of both countries and that it would be my duty and my pleasure to do all in my power to

strengthen the good understanding which has heretofore existed between the American and Roumanian Governments. The King in replay asked me to transmit his „Sympathetic greetings” to the President, and extended to me a cordial welcome to Roumania. In the course of the informal conversation which followed, His Majesty made certain pleasant personal remarks and expressed the hopes that there would be opportunity for his becoming better acquainted with me than he had been with my recent predecessors. I replied that is my intention to pass the greater part of the summer in Roumania – at Sinaia, where the Court and diplomatic corp usually spend the summer. At this he seemd much pleased. Subsequently I was received by the Queen and by the Prince and Princess of Roumania with the usual formalities.

In conversation with members of the diplomatic corps and others, I learned that the King had spoken freely about his wish to see more of the American Minister and to have him learn to know Roumania better, and had expressed his satisfaction at hearing that it was my intention to see something of the country. Personally I must confess to having considerable admiration for the Roumanian people, and after travelling in the East (of Europe) one cannot but be impressed with the progress which have been made during the reign of the present King. Bucharest itself is a handsome wide awake city with fine public buildings. Many American articles are

to be seen in its shop windows, although there is but little direct commercial intercourse with the United States. The papers pay considerable attention to America, particularly to the doings and speeches of the President, and in one of the leading hat-stores prominence was given in the show windows to a style which was called „the Roosevelt”. Although the Roumanian claim to be the successors of the Empire of Trajan (I saw a street named after Numa Pompilius Marcus Aurelius etc and in Constanza a statue of Ovid was erected not long ago) Roumania is practically a new country and has all the sensitiveness of youth. It is proud of its King, and he is proud of his country, although he may at the same time be a little disappointed... at one time almost made Prince of Bulgaria as well as Roumania and he was formerly credited with an ambition to extend his Kingdom to Constantinople. Romanian energies have of late years been spent in developing of the country, so far as the means at hand permitted, and no efforts have been made to extend its territorial limits, in spite of the sympathy for the Koutzo-Wallachs of Macedonia.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21 c. 144 -145.

Nr. 9 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Athens, April 13, 1903

To the Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honour to report that the Romanian Parliament has just appropriated the sum of 500.000 francs (lei) for preliminary work connected with the building of the Pipe Line from Campina, in the petroleum district, to Constanța, the Roumanian Black Sea port, crossing the Danube by the celebrated railway bridge to Cernavoda.

Confidential:

The Departament is probably aware that it was the intention of the Standard Oil Company to build such a pipe line, had the negotiation which took place about two years ago been successful. At that time the „Standard” endeavoured to get control of the Government petroleum lands, and it is probable that its efforts would have met with success had it not been for the opposition of the King himself. At that time His Majesty, in referring to Mr. Rockefeller, in conversation with the British Minister⁹, said there

⁹ Kennedy, John (1836 - 1912) British diplomat, functions at St. Petersburg (1881 - 1885), Rome (1885 - 1888) minister at Santiago de Chile (1888 - 1897) and Bucharest (1897 - 1905).

was only room for one King in Roumania and he was already there. At the time of the negotiations referred to, Roumania was in financial difficulties, and the Government, the King himself especially, objected to the conclusion of any agreement which made be less advantageously on account of these difficulties. Now the situation is different: the Liberal party is bound not to increase its budget for a term of years (see Mr. Francis despatch No. 20 Romanian Series, of March 10, 1902) although the revenues of the country has increased and there is now a surplus of about fifteen millions francs and it is rumoured that the german Disconto-Gesellschaft is negotiating for the lease of the Governments lands. Mr. Bratiano characterized this rumour as a „canard”. Mr. Sturdza, the Prime Minister, however, of his own initiative, spoke of the reasons for the failure to come to terms with the Standard, and referred to the change in the situation; and Mr. Costinescu, the Minister of Finance, was formerly connected with a banking institution in Roumania which was practically under the control of the Disconto-Gesellschaft. It is therefore more than possible that there may be something in the report after all.

The session of the Roumanian Parliament was closed on the 4th instant, after taking the appropriation referred above out of the surplus revenue, and after was not to increase ordinary expenditure, but there had been no intention to let any excess

accumulate. It will be remembered that the reform of the budget, two years ago, was brought about by an almost universal reduction of salaries, including a voluntary reduction by the King of a similar proportion of his civil list, and that the Roumanian loan has recently been converted on favourable terms. During the parliamentary session which has just ended, laws were passed amending electoral proceeding in the interest of a secret ballot, doing away with the „octroi” – a measure of great popularity, increasing the gendarmerie, providing funds for the taking of measures to prevent epidemics etc. Adhesion was also given to the Berne convention with regard to technical uniformity in railway matters throughout Europe.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 144 -145.

6

Nr. 14 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States Athens, April, 18, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

Referring to my dispatch No. 7, Roumanian Series of the 21st ultimo, I have the honor to report that, after inquiry on the spot, I

am still of the opinion that no official representations were made to Romanian Government by any of the Powers concerned, as a result of the Department's circular instruction of August 11, 1902. During my recent visit to Bucharest no direct reference was made to the Jewish question in official circles – either at the Palace, or the Foreign Office, or in the course of my conversation with Mr. Sturdza. I talk of the matter freely, however, with my diplomatic colleagues and others. My conviction that Germany had made no representations was made a certainty, and I learned that neither France nor Great Britain had taken any formal action. Of late, as heretofore, both at the Palace and at the Foreign Office, the British and French Ministers have referred to the subject informally; the former thinks that the instruction was productive of good, the latter thinks that it was not. As a matter of fact, although there were a number of Jewish naturalization cases acted upon in each of the houses of the Romanian legislative body, during its recent session, only a very few – say three or four – were finally dealt with by both.

The British Minister told me that some time ago the King had said to him that when he had advocated the granting of naturalization to all Jews serving in the army who had advanced to the rank of corporal, he had been unable to carry this point owing to the general opposition. The Roumanian peasant is stupid and

dull, while the Jew is naturally much cleverer, and it is honestly feared that if he were granted civil rights and permitted to own real estate, he will soon own the greater part of the country, holding as he already does mortgages for large part of it. In Bucharest itself, the Jewish quarter of the city is relatively clean and attractive, and everywhere one sees signs over shops bearing unmistakably Jewish names. Jewish lawyers and doctors occupying good positions, are also to be found, - it is true only in limited numbers, and these usually actual foreign subjects - and everything seems to indicate that the prejudice is neither against the race nor the individual, but is based upon the genuine fear as to what would result from general naturalization. That the situation of the Jews in Roumania is regrettable cannot be denied, but no less can be denied that their sufferings have been exaggerated. The fact that the place of every emigrant is at once filled by immigration from Galicia, Poland and Russia, speaks for itself. The Government does not favour the emigration because, as a general rule, the more competent Jews leave and their places are taken by less intelligent people. As a Jassy shopkeeper, who was closing up his business, recently said to an English merchant of whom he had formerly been a good customer „there are too many of us here for it to be possible for me to make any money.” In parts of Moldavia sixty per cent of the

population are Jews, most of whom, it is said, use the „Yiddish” (corrupt German) language, and speak but little Roumanian.

In writting the foregoing I had no intention to take sides in this matter. As the Jewish side of the case has been very ably presented, however, and as there is no Romanian Minister in the United States, it seems only fair that I should inform you of what is said by Roumanians and others living in the country. If we really have the interests of the Jews in Roumania at heart, I think that our policy should be to cultivate Roumanian good-will, so that if we feel called upon to give advice there may be some chance of its beeing taken in a friendly spirit and possibly followed. Everyone to whom I spoke expressed admiration for the United States and a wish that we should become better acquainted with Roumania. It is felt that last summer’s instruction was written upon the presentation of only one side of the case and without accurate information as to the actual conditions. The situation is a difficult one and foreign criticism makes it all the more so as the unjust features are recognized by many of the Roumanians themselves who are especially sensitive on this account, while they are honestly afraid of the effect that a change would have upon their national developement.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 151 -152.

7

Nr. 20 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Athens,

May 25, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

I have the honor to report that the recent elections in Roumania have resulted in a return of a large majority (more than 2/3rds) of the Government candidates. These elections were for the members of the so-called „Coleges” which choose the provincial legislatures and have nothing to do with the national legislative body, which was chosen two years ago for a term of four years unless sooner dissolved. The prefects through the country, however are appointed by the Government and it is impossible for matters to go on satisfactorily unless they are supported by the provincial chambers. As a rule these provincial elections have been considered local matters and have been kept separate from national politics. This year on the contrary. The Conservatie opposition endeavoured to bring politics in and the result has been a strong popular endorsement of the present Liberal Government.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 161

8

Nr. 28 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia,

July 31, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

Referring to the Legation's despatches of this series No. 20 of March 10, 1902 and 9, of April 13, 1903, I have the honor to report that in our conversation on the 22nd instant, Mr. Bratiano referred with satisfaction to the existing financial condition in Roumania. The loan of 1899 was converted on favourable terms last spring, Mr. Sturdza has held fast in his budget to the figures adopted in 1901 (218,500,00 lei) and it is confidently expected that there will be again be an „excedent” at the close of the current fiscal year.

It will be remembered that the financial difficulties were occasioned by a combination of a certain amount of unnecessary extravagance, too great haste in the constructions of public works, a succesion of bad crops, and pressure from outside by those who wished to force Roumania to grant political rights to the so-called

„strangers not-enjoying the protection of any foreign state.” This year the prospect is that the crops will be good, the railways have been operated more profitably than naval owing to the fact that the Macedonian scare has diverted much bussines from the direct line to Constantinople, and it seems probable that the heroic efforts which were made to put the country in a sound economic position, are to be succesful.

The country generally is very fertile, and when modern agricultural methods are introduced it will be much more production. The public works are of a solid permanent character. Recently I have traversed a good part of the country in coming here from Constanza and in going to and returning from Berlin, and everywhere I was impressed by the progress which has been made, by the energy shown by the Government in developing its resources and by the confidence felt in its future. The rolling stock of the railways, the stations and bridges, and the roadbed itself will stand comparison with those of any country in Europe. The Port of Constanza has been converted into a safe and commodious harbor and the Romanian steamers running from it to Constantinople are larger and faster than any of the competing lines on the Black Sea. Part of the „excedent” of last year has been applied to the construction of tank steamers for the transportation of petroleum on the Danube, of petroleum reservoirs at Constanza, of ice-

brakers for that port and the river, and of boats for carrying grain (to Italy, Belgium etc). Progress is being made in working out the plans for the proposed pipe line from the petroleum district to the Black Sea.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 172 -173.

9

Nr. 30 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States,

Sinaia, August 1, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

I have the honour to report that I lunched today with the King and Queen of Romania at the Chateau Pelesch, their summer residence here, and that the members of my family and Mr. Wilson, the Secretary of Legation, accompanied me. Their Majesties received us cordially and I had a somewhat prolonged conversation with the King, in which he spoke pleasantly of several of my earlier predecessors as American Minister here. Both he and the Queen spoke of the pleasure which it would give them to visit the United States, and regretted that such a visit was out of

the question. The King spoke with pride – being in my opinion, perfectly justified – of the progress made in Roumania during his (forty years) reign. He referred especially to the export of agricultural products and told me that Romania has furnished most of the wood which has been used in London last year to build stands at the time of the Coronation festivities.

Confidential:

His Majesty spoke with feeling about recent events in Servia¹⁰ and said that he has just signed new credentials for his minister at Belgrade¹¹. He had felt obliged to resign the honorary colonelcy of the Servian regiment of which so many officers had been connected with the assassination of King Alexander, but that owing to the importance of Roumanian interests in Servia, he did not feel at liberty to postpone longer the renewal of diplomatic relations. He said that in any case the „change in government in Servia was really a matter of domestic concern.”

Among the other guests at the luncheon were a Prussian General (who had served in the same regiment of Guards with the

¹⁰ Assassination of the King Alexander Obrenovici, of his wife Draga (born Mašin), of the Prime minister and War minister and of the two brothers of the Queen at June 11 1903.

¹¹ Mavrocordat, Edgar, minister at Belgrade (October 15 1899 – April 1 1905), at the Hague (April 1 1905 – September 1 1911), at Vienna (September 1 1911 – August 14/27 1916).

King in Berlin, from 1861 to 1866) and an Austrian subject, born in Roumania and of unquestionably Jewish origin. The General (von John) with whom I have been acquainted for a number of years, spoke to me of the Kings feelings with regard to the note of last August, and said only the favourable report which had been made about me personally had induced him to receive another American Minister under existing conditions. (Compare my dispatch No 8 this series of April 13 1903). The General intimated that the Austrian in question had been invited on my account in order to show that there was no race or religious prejudice – other things beeing equal. The question, as I have stated before, is considered as one of national existence, and the King and Romanian authorities feel rather hurt then offended at our action, which they consider as having been taken upon the strengths of partial incomplete and incorrect information furnished by interested parties who wish Roumania no good. General von John is an intimate friend of the King whose guest he now is, and I am sure that His Majesty intended to have him speak to me as he did. The King himself made no reference to the Jewish question.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 175 -178.

Nr. 35 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia,

August, 7, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

Referring to my despatch No. 23 of the 3rd ultimo, I have the honor to report that I was informed by Mr. Bratiano, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, yesterday that a commission of three (one of them is the Minister's brother) had been appointed to study the petroleum question throughly, particularly in relation to the Government lands. When this commission makes his report the Government will be in a position to determine upon a course of action in this matter. It is understood that the Romanian Company –the Steaua Română – is connected intimately with the Deutsche Bank of Berlin, and the Telega Oil Company of London has relation with the Berlin Diskonto Gesellschaft and that both these combinations have shown inclinations of a readiness to come to an agreement with the Government with a view to exploiting the Government oil lands.

Mr. Bratiano inquired particularly as to whether the gentlemen who visited Bucharest in the Spring were persons of importance in the Standard oil Company. He said „that as a liberal he was much opposed to anything like the creation of a state within

a state” and that he feared greatly the effect of trusts and the enormous fortunes created thereby.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilme USA, r. 21, c. 187.

11

Nr. 37 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia, Romania

August, 18, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

I have the honor to append herto a translation (made by Mr. Wilson) of a part of an interview with the King of Roumania, by a representative of the Vienna „Neue Freie Presse” as reported in the Bucharest „L’Indépendance Roumaine” No. 8221 of todays date. The „Indépendance” is a semi official paper published in French, under the control of a Mr. Bratiano, a brother of the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the fact that the interview referred to above is reported in this paper would seem to indicate that it actually took place. The interview has been referred to generally by the European press.

As the Departament is aware the ideea in question is not new, having been spoken of particularly in Germany, in an academic

way, for many years, and in Austria by Count Goluchowski semi-officially, at least six years ago. The King of Roumania is a German by birth and education, and it is not at all surprising that he should hold the views exposed, especially in view of the fact that recent occurrences have not been of a nature to cause him to bear any great amount of good-will towards the United States. His Majesty's views are, I believe, shared generally by the members of the Liberal party which is at present in power. Roumania is an agricultural state and almost its only exports are petroleum, cattle and cereals. Consequently it comes into direct competition with us in its efforts to supply the European, particularly the German markets. I do not however, attach any importance to the interview except as showing the feeling existing in regard to commercial matters here and in a good part of Europe. Competition between the several European countries themselves makes any possible combination against the United States a matter too distant to be worthy of serious consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

„The King then remarked that the policy of exchange (politiques des échanges) had also undergone a great transformation in Europe. America floods the old world not only with the products of its soil but also with its merchandise, while it

close its own markets. Under such circumstances it might be well to consider whether it might not be expedient to apply the principle of „Europe for Europe”. Europe could, with the products of its own soil absolutely suffice for itself, increase the consumption and also the use of its own merchandise. An agreement of the european Powers for this purpose would not be impossible.”

(Part of an interview with King of Roumania, by a representative of its Viena Neue Freie Presse as reported in the „Indépendance Roumaine” No. 8221, of August 5/18 1903.)
ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 190 -192.

12

Nr. 39 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia, Romania

August, 18, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir,

I have the honour to confirm that that telegram sent you this afternoon as follows:

„Second son born to Romanian Crown Princess today.”

The older son of the Prince of Roumania and the eventual heir to the throne is not quite ten years of age.

The new born Prince is called Nicolas and it is stated that the Czar of Russia is to be his God-Father – even His Majesty may come to Bucharest for the baptism. Such a visit although it is not thought probable, would be a return for the visits (two I believe) which the King of Roumania has paid to Russia¹². The King has visited Austria a number of times, and the Emperor of Austria has been in Romania at least once¹³. The Roumanian Government has always endeavored to keep on good terms with both its powerful neighbours, to avoid showing a preference for either of them.

At the same time Romania has deffend from the other Balkan States in that she has paid more attention to interior developement than to the possibilities of increasing her territorial limits. While geography has of course had something to do with this, it cannot be denied that the Romanian Government (whether Liberal or Conservative) and sometimes with more than judgement) has endeavored consistently to do all in its power in the direction of domestic progress. (Compare Minister Snowden despatch of May 28, 1891, and others and Minister Rockhills despatch of August 19, 1898).... at present Roumania is generally looked upon as an important element of civilization, order and progress and as a strong factor in favor of the maintenance of peace in the Balkans –

¹² In September 1869, in Crimeea, and in July 1898, at St. Petersburg.

¹³ At the end of September 1896.

as is shown by the comments of European press on the occasion of the recent interview between the King and the Emperor of Austria.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 197.

13

Nr. 47 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia, Romania

September, 7, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir!

I have the honor to report that in conversation yesterday, Mr. Sturdza, the Romanian Prime Minister, spoke at length about the circular note of August 11, 1902, and the Jewish question. He said that there were two kinds of Jews in Romania – the Spanish Jews who are a higher class, and the Jews who are principally found in Moldavia (and the neighbouring parts of Austria and Russia), who he claimed are not Israelites at all, but Mongols who were converted many centuries ago.¹⁴ There were few of this kind in what is now Romania prior to 1828 and most of those who were in

¹⁴ Probably D.A. Sturdza is referring to the khazars on the border of the Caspian Sea who converted themselves to the Judaism in the 8th century.

the country up to that time enjoyed either Austrian or Russian protection. Before the treaty of Paris, no Jew, Turk or Armenian could own real estate in the country. In the mean time however the Armenians had come Roumanian-ized, and there was no objection to the change which was made in 1856, which enabled any Christian to do so. Later, at the time when the country became independent, a further change was made and any „Roumanian” obtained the right to own land. Ultimately, after the treaty of Berlin of 1878, the complete independence of Roumania was recognized by the European Powers. At that time there were practically no American in the country, yet the United States saw fit to recognize its independence of its own accord, in 1880 and to send a diplomatic representative (Mr. Eugene Schuyler) to reside in Roumania. This action was greatly appreciated at the time and it has not been forgotten. Since that time, however Romania has no longer been under the tutelage of the treaty powers, and now she does not recognize their right to intervene. Mr Sturdza said that she would rather give up her national existence then to accept dictation from abroad with regard to her action in a matter of domestic policy. Nevertheless, the United States, in the summer of 1902, ignore Romanian independance and the fact that a regular channel existed by which diplomatic representations might be made and chose to appeal to the „signatories of the Treaty of Berlin”, instead

of applying directly to Roumania and seeking information as to the actual situation. This Mr. Sturdza said had „hurt” (we spoke German and he used the word „verletzt”) more than anything else. Had a note been addressed directly to Romania the subject might have been discussed in a friendly spirit (compare my despatch No 14); as it was, the Prime Minister learned of the note through the press and through it he first heard that there had been any question of a naturalization treaty – as Mr. Francis had never spoke to him of any wish to negotiate such a treaty as he had given up the immediate control of foreign affairs some time before¹⁵, and as the negotiations which actually took place were carried on between the American and the Romanian Legation.

Mr. Sturdza said that now that I had seen something of Roumania and the Roumanians and now that they had become acquainted with me, he was ready to inform me as to his position. He said at first that *Roumania had not liberated herself from Turkish sovereignty in order to accept that of the Jews*; that she had powerful neighbors and must do everything possible (compare despatch No 7) to maintain and develop her own nationality. He said that to grant political rights, or to naturalize, the Jews *en masse* - even if this were considered advisable – would necessitate

¹⁵ D. A. Sturdza was also minister of the Foreign Affairs from the first moment of his reign at February 14/27 1901, till January 9/22 1902.

a change in the Constitution, and he was not in favor of frequent changes in a thing which should be a permanent and more or less sacred character. He said that absolutely no question of religious prejudice was involved and cited a number of instances when Jews who had become Roumanians and been naturalized had attained political prominence under both Liberal and Conservative Governments. He referred to one instance when he and other Ministers had attended a wedding in the synagogue at Bucharest in dress clothes and with decorations „because of respect for the man whose daughter was being married.” (compare despatch No 30). He said, however that the mass of the Jews did not regard themselves as Roumanians, that they spoke of belonging to the „Jewish Nation” and considered themselves as of a superior race to the Christians, and that they had their own customs, language and ambitions and neither would nor could assimilate with the nation Roumanians. They wanted to become naturalized or rather naturalization was wanted for them, in order that they might secure political rights and own land. Moreover, it is not merely a question for the Jews already in Romania, as for many reasons their position here is much better than that of their co-religionists in Austria and Russia¹⁶ and if existing restrictions were to be removed then would

¹⁶ The statement of D.A. Sturdza is not proved, the Jewish from Austria having since long time all political rights.

be a great influx from those countries. In Romania there is not at the least religious persecution, there have been no massacres¹⁷, and passports are not necessary to enable one to travel inside the country. Jews generally are not allowed to live in rural districts, because experience has shown that they rarely if ever become actual farm laborers, but wish to exploit such laborers (as overseers etc.) or to keep inns and drinking places.

After this general statement Mr. Sturdza went on to describe the special circumstances which led to the increased emigration of Jews a few years ago. He said that the Government had never favored such emigration and it had no wish to drive Jews out the country. The emigration, he said, was due to bad times, - which prevailed for various reasons but principally on account of drought and the failure of the crops. For more then a year the laboring population of Romania was unable to support itself. The

¹⁷ D. A. Sturdza is referring to the so called first pogrome at Chişinău April 6 -7/19-20 1903 when 47 (some put the figure at 49) Jews were killed, 92 were severely and 500 were slightly injured, 700 houses were destroyed, and 600 stores were pillaged (cf. Jewish Encyclopedia). The second pogrom will take place at October 6-7/19 -20 1905, when 19 Jews had been killed and 56 were injured. The Russian ambassador to the United States (1898 - 1905), Count Arthur Cassini (1835 -1919), characterized the first outbreak as a reaction of financially hard-pressed peasants to Jewish creditors in an interview on May 18, 1903.

Government and the owners of private estates did all that possible, but there was a great deal of suffering. The bad times were felt particularly in the cities, as building practically stopped and the people had no money to spend in the shops. Naturally many people thought of emigrating (especially among the Jews who had few local attachments), and soon this emigration was given a political character. Instead of going by rail the Jews began making demonstrative marches through the country singing and otherwise disturbing the peace. Many of them were not permitted to go further than Budapest and Vienna, many suffered greatly but more or less unnecessarily. In the case of those who were turned back, however, the Romanian Government repatriated them at its own expense spending several hundred thousand francs for the purpose. The country was in financial straits at the time and certain foreign influences were brought to bear in order to discredit it generally. Had it been forced to grant political rights to the Jews, many Romanians would have been forced to sell their mortgaged estates, but the situation of the Jews in Roumania (especially the poorer classes) would not have been materially improved.

During the summer I have travelled more or less about the country and have visited Jassy, Bârlad, Galatz, Braila and other cities, and done my best to inform myself as to the exact situation. Practically only one prominent public man – Mr. Carp, the leader

of one branch of the Conservative party – professes to be in favor to treating the Jews more liberally and this only when he is out of office, as when he was Prime Minister he attempted nothing in this direction. The general feeling is that the naturalization of the Jews must be a gradual matter – as they become educated up to bring Romanians. I am convinced that the note of August 11, 1902, did little or nothing to advance their interests.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21 c. 021 – 027.

14

Nr. 55 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia,

October, 2, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir:

The report of the Foreign Commerce of Roumania for the 1902 recently published by the Ministry of Finance, may be of some interest as showing the improved commercial situation of the country during the last few years, which taken in connection with the economical financial administration of the present government

(see No. 28 this series) speaks very well for the present condition of Roumania.

The chief fact to be noted in the above mentioned report, is that the figures for the total foreign commerce are in excess, with one exception, of those attained in any year up to this time. (The year 1893 the exports were 370.000.000 tons¹⁸, due however to special conditions on account of the tariff war between Russia and Germany which offered an exceptional market for the Romanian wheat).

In the year in question (1902) the export amounted to 3,318,260 tons, valued 374,819,219 francs, the import being valued at 283,344,589 francs, thus giving a balance in favor of Roumania of 91, 474, 670 francs.

This favourable condition of things began after the financial and commercial crisis of 1899, for from 1877 to 1899 the value of imports had steadily exceeded that of exports. Beginning with 1900, however, the contrary has been the case as is shown by the following table, which also shows that for the three years 1900, 1901, 1902 the total exports have exceeded the total imports by the sum of 315,884,340 francs.

Exportation	Importation
1900: 280,000,431 frs	116,985,878 frs

¹⁸ Precisely: 370.651.787 Lei, see *Almanach de Gotha*, 1895, pag. 1184.

1901:	353, 830,877 frs	292, 435,760 frs
1902:	374,819,219 frs	283,344,549 frs
Total:	1,008,650,527 frs	692,766,187 frs

In this reason, the Minister of Finance is able to report that from January 1 to December 31, 1902 the amount of gold entering the country was 56,719,940 francs, while only 11,820,684 francs left the country, a fact which has done much to increase the credit of Roumania abroad.

The following table shows the amount of merchandise imported and exported from various countries, and it, will be remarked that the United States does not appear in the list. This is probably due to the fact that what few American goods are imported into Roumania come through Germany, Austria and England principally, and are therefore included in the figures given for these countries, as for example the importation of Agricultural machines, many of which are of American manufacture, has increased from 3,000,000 kilograms in 1900 to 10,000,000 in 1902.

I also enclose herewith a detailed statement

1. Imports and Exports according to Article
2. Imports and Exports according to Country

Taken from various issues of the Independance Roumaine, the semi-official newspaper, for which the figures have been compiled from the report of the Ministry of Finance.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

Charles S. Wilson charge d'affaire ad interim

Enclosure as above

ANR, Microfilme USA, r 21, c. 232 – 233.

15

Nr. 63 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Athens,

December 16, 1903

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir:

While there may be no actual discrimination in the granting of reduced rates in accordance with the so called „tarif direct”, which is effective between various european countries (between Roumania, Germany, Austria, etc.) where the railways belong to the Government, the practical result is the same as if there were, and it has been said with truth that treaties of commerce, no matter how ingeniously combined, are not the only means of protecting national industries or granting commercial favours. As a matter of fact agricultural machines can be shipped to certain parts of

Roumania, from Chemnitz, in Saxony, cheaper than they can be sent to the same places from the Roumanian seaports themselves. We, however, have no commercial treaty with Roumania, her exports to the United States are of but slight importance and we are not in a position to exercise pressure in commercial matters. Germany, on the contrary, is in a much more favourable position. Apart from the fact that the King of Roumania is by birth a German Prince and that many Roumanian public men have been educated in Germany, the Germans have helped Roumania when other sources were closed, they have enabled her to develop her rail system by arranging for through trains from Berlin to Constantza, the principal Roumanian Black Sea port, and they have held out prospects of laying a cable from that place to Constantinople (in pursuance the policy of getting rid of the British cable monopolies) – a cable which is hoped will be in working order in about two years. Consequently, while there may be no direct discrimination against any other country, it is to be expected that Germany will be treated with all possible consideration.

The Government hopes to introduce its new tariff scheme in parliament in a short time, and it thinks it possible that the measure may be passed in time to go into effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year (1 April). I have been assured that no higher duties will be charged on American products than upon the products of other

countries who do not make especial conventions, but I think it probable that the products of certain countries may be favored indirectly at the expense of others. It is a simple matter to arrange that all goods of a certain kind shall pay the same duty, but that a greater or smaller allowance may be made for „tare” in the case of one country with one kind of packing than in the case of others. While in Bucharest I saw members of the principal houses engaged in the importation of American machines, and also all anticipate that the duty on such article will be increased, none seem to fear foreign competition so long as treatment is equal.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 262.

16

Vol. V

Nr. 105 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Athens,

June 15, 1904

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that representatives of the Standard Oil Company have lately constituted a „Société Anonyme

Roumano Américaine” in Roumania, on the lines of the Roumanian „Steaua Română”. These representatives were recently received by Mr. Stourdza, the Prime Minister, whose manner was more friendly towards them than heretofore. Newspapers which previously could not be severe enough against the „Standard”, have now adopted a conciliatory tone towards the new association.

In regard to the developement of the petroleum industry in Roumania, the Government appears to be constantly on its guard in order to prevent anything of the nature of a trust. The recently enacted measure regarding concessions to exploit private petroleum lands (despatch No. 97, of the 27th ultimo), will, it is said, more or less guarantee the holdings and will help put an end to the practice of leasing these lands several times over, which has prevailed to a certain extent. No objection seems to have been raised to it as yet. New rules have been made in regard to the petroleum reservoirs at Constanza, which are under the Government control and which have just begun to be used. All petroleum exported from Constantza must pass through these reservoirs, and in order to prevent the squeezing out of small producers, a regulation has been made prescribing the reservation of at least one reservoir for the common use of producers whose business is not sufficient to warrant their having a reservoir for their sole use.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 18.

17

Nr. 109 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Athens,

July, 8, 1904

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, at a banquet given at Bushtenari, in the Roumanian petroleum district, a short time ago, Mr. Sturdza, the President of the Ministry, made a speech to which considerable prominence has been given by the newspapers supposed to have more or less connection with the Roumanian Government. The general subject of this speech was Petroleum, and Mr. Sturdza went over the history of petroleum for the last forty years, not only in Roumania, but in America, Russia and Galicia as well. He referred, of course, to the value of the Roumanian lands, the increasing amount of oil produced, etc., and cautioned the owners against speculation and squandering. He referred to the work already done by the Government, in the construction of petroleum reservoirs at Constanza, the building of

tank steamers, etc, and said that it is intended to develop transportation up the River Danube as far as Regensburg (Ratisbonne). Throughout the whole of his speech there was an ...ent of antagonism toward trusts generally and the Standard Oil Company in particular. He spoke of the Standard as being merely a spectator in petroleum, not a producer; referred to the competition which had gone on, he said, between it and the Russian companies for thirteen years, from 1885 to 1897; and mentioned the several attempts which have been made by the Standard to enter Roumania. He then referred to Germany, England, France and Italy, as great states which would buy Romanian petroleum, and which, with Roumania, have an interest in combatting Standard monopoly. This led to his speaking of American competition generally, and in this connection he spoke about as follows:

„The situation is evident as far as Roumania and America are concerned. Both countries produce cereals in large quantities and Roumania is increasing her production of petroleum. Trade in cereals and petroleum is well organized in America, while it is only making its debut in Roumania. It is natural that Roumania should endeavor to enlarge her commerce in both cereals and petroleum, and that American should strive to retain her old markets and acquire new ones. Antagonism is undeniable, and little Roumania may say to great America: I too have a right to

live, that is to say, not only to produce as much as possible, but to sell what I produce in the best and most advantageous manner. It would be illogical for Roumania to associate herself with the United States in matters of production of and trade in cereals and petroleum. Such an association could only be dangerous for the smaller and less developed, the poorer and the one having her relations less well organized. On the contrary it is natural for Roumania to enter into relations with countries which consume” etc. etc. „In conclusion, we have resolutely entered into competition with America for the European markets.”

Further on his speech, Mr. Sturdza spoke of the Standard as the most dangerous of trusts, because it not only monopolized the production of America, but the trade of Europe as well. He referred to the report which was made to Congress in 1888, in which the Standard was characterized in very uncomplimentary terms, and went to speak of the actions of that company in Germany, England, France, Denmark and other countries, and to the „tempest of feeling” to which they have given rise.

In a previous despatch I referred to the organization of the Roumanian branch of the Standard. It seems that an effort was made to deny corporate rights to this organization but that on appeal, the Roumanian courts decided that it must be permitted to carry on bussines, as desired.

It is probable that this company will call upon the Legation for assistance and I should be glad to receive your general instructions in regard to the questions as to how far you would wish to have me comply with its wishes.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 22 - 23.

18

Nr. 112 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States,

Bucharest, July, 13, 1904

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 103 of this series, of the 23 ultimo, I have the honor to report that since my arrival in Roumania I have learned that the harvest will probably not be so bad as was anticipated a month or so ago. The drought has apparently not been general and it is expected that the crops will be quite up to the average in some parts of the country. I still think however that it will be advisable for us to be prepared for increased emigration from Roumania.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 26.

19

Nr. 113 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Bucharest,

July, 15, 1904

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir!

I have the honor to report that I called by appointments this afternoon on Mr. Sturdza, the Romanian Prime Minister, and had an interview with him which lasted about an hour and three quarters. At first the conversation was on general topic of interest in this part of the world to wit, Stephan the Great („Ștefan cel Mare”) of Moldavia, the four hundred anniversary of whose death was celebrated throughout Roumania today; Romanian origin and history; the Macedonian situation; the position taken by the Greek Government and the Patriarch of Constantinople as regards the Kouzo-Wallachs; the possibility of a Balkan Federation (in which he does not believe) etc.

Subsequently the conversation took a more practical turn and we spoke of the industrial developement of Roumania and the new custom tariff. Mr. Sturdza said that it was impossible to fortell

what might be the action of Parliament (see Dispatch No 98 of June, 3, 1904) in regard to putting this tariff into force, but it is of course probable that it will not be made effective until after the conclusion of at least one Commercial treaty, and it was even possible that there may be delays until after the commercial relations of the principal European great powers are regulated in the regard to relations between the United States and Roumania, Mr Sturdza spoke a similar strain to that used by him recently in his speech at Buştenari (Despatch No. 109, July 8, 1904) as far at least as grain and petroleum are concerned.

Confidential:

This gave me the opportunity to thank him for having received certain representatives of the Standard Oil Co. and to say as I have been requested to do by Mr. Lufkin, that these gentlemen, thought that he misunderstood their present position. Mr. Sturdza at once launched first into a tirade against trusts in general and the Standard Oil in particular. He referred again and again to the nature of the competition between this company and the Roumanian producers in Germany, and he seemd to have taken especial *embargo* to a remark which had been made by Mr. Lufkin, to the effect that Roumanian oil seemd destined for the Oriental rather than the European market. He said that the new company was composed of insignificant (*bedeutungslos*) Romanians who

were merely used to mask the Standard Oil Co. and he showed already that both fear and prejudice prevented his judging coolly. His life's object has been to bring about Romanian political and economic independance, and he appears to honestly believe that the latter is threatened. As soon as it was possible for me to do so, I called his attention to the fact that although American capital is involved, the newly organized company is a Romanian company and could only operate in accordance with Romanian laws. I said that I could not properly ask any favours for this company and that I had no intention to do so; that the Germans would probably buy their petroleum from those who supplied the best product on the best terms; that if Romanian petroleum found a good market, it was immaterial, except from a sentimental point of view, where that market was. I called attention to the fact that the various companies operating in petroleum at the present time were supported by German, English, Belgian, Dutch and other foreign capital and that these companies had formed a kind of trust, or cartel, against the new one. I repetead that I asked no favors but that I confidently relied upon his sense of justice for the fair treatement of the company in which American capital is involved, and that I hoped that Americans doing bussines in Romania would be treated as equitably as other foreigners. Mr. Sturdza reply that I might generally rely on his sense of justice (*Rechtsgefühl*) but that

in some circumstances „patriotic duty” must be supreme, and that he expected to watch the new company very closely.

Our interview was of an entirely agreeable character, in spite of our somewhat heated discussion. As I said however, I think that fear and prejudice prevent Mr. Sturdza from seeing clearly in this matter, and I am almost certain that he will do what he can to prevent the succes of the new company and to put stumbling blocks in its path. The company declares that all it desires is that it „be accorded the same facilities and privileges as other oil companies are now enjoying+++ (signs in text) but all according to the laws and regulations which are provided for the establishment of similar industrial undertakings.” It has competent Romanian advisers, and it has already had one succesful experience with the Roumanian Courts. Consequently I am inclined to think that, although it may be more or less subjected to *petty?* annoyances, the result will be to the profit of both the American interests involved and to Romania itself – provided of course that it actually operates on the lines now laid down by its directors and managers.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 28 - 30.

Nr. 117 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia,

July 27, 1904

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

I have the honor to report that I lunched with the King and Queen of Roumania at their Palace in Siania. They both expressed their pleasure that the Legation was once again to be established in Roumania for the summer and spoke at length, as they have before, of their desire to have an American Legation permanently in the country. (The King said he thought that the common interests of the two countries on account of American interest in Romanian petroleum, required an American representative and that he had no doubt that the representative of the Standard Oil Company would under those circumstances have found their task somewhat easier.)

The Queen in speaking of the Standard Oil Company said, that by the Americans and many Roumanians the King had been charged with hostility towards that Company and that it was true that His Majesty had feared the result of allowing such a „powerful trust” to get a foothold in Romania, as he thought that the best interests of the country would be preserved in keeping the principal industry in Romanian hands.

During most of luncheon the Queen spoke to me about the Romanian Jews, stating that there was no religious or racial feeling against them, but that the measures taken by Roumanian were necessary on account of their number and exceedingly low state of civilization, and that she thought that criticism of the treatement of the Jews came from a misunderstanding of peculiar condition existing in Roumania and was like much ignorant and harmful European criticism of America of the treatement of the Negroes and Chinese and people of the Philipine Islands.

Both the King and Queen referred to the serious and prolonged drought which has almost destroyed the crops throughout the country and said that it was bound to cause great suffering among the lower classes.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

Charles S. Wilson

ANR, Microfilme USA, r. 21, c. 59 - 60.

21

Nr. 121 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States,

Sinaia, August 1, 1904

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that on account of the severe drought which has existed in Romania for many months and which has done great damage to the crops, the King on July 31st, signed a decree forbidding all exportation of maize from the country until further notice. This measure was undued necessary as maize is the chief food for the peasants and it has been especially affected by the drought. In many parts of the country the crop has been entirely destroyed, and elsewhere it will be extremely small. The above mentioned decree will not, of course, prevent exports from fulfilling the contracts which they have already made abroad.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

Charles S. Wilson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 064.

22

Nr. 129 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia,

August 18, 1904

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

Referring to my previous despatches in regard to this year poor harvest, I have the honor to report that the Roumanian Government is doing all in its power to prevent a famine during the

coming winter, as well as to prevent the effects of the bad year from being felt for the year to come. Steps have been taken to purchase a supply of maize, for distribution by the State to needy peasants, and orders have been issued to the several prefects to prevent the peasants from selling their cattle and so reducing the number of cattle in the country and handicapping themselves for the future.

These orders to the prefects are of considerable interest. After a general review of what the duties of these official consist, they are told that they must do everything possible to lessen the effects of the want of food (especially maize in the case of the peasant) and fodder. They are told to show the peasant how his maize has not come to the ear can be cut and kept for fodder for his cattle, and how green leaves and twigs can be collected for the same purpose. They are told to instruct him as to the danger he incurs if he sell all his cattle or materially reduces his holding below the number of head usually kept. They are told to drive out of their districts all speculators who may endeavour to induce the peasant to sell his cattle. In all this they are instructed to call upon the local school teachers and priests for assistance, and finally they are told that no cattle are to be attached this year for unpaid taxes, and that peasants are to be allowed to store up foliage etc, in the forests belonging to the State.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 078.

23

Nr. 135 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Athens,

November 12, 1905

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

Referring to my despatch No 115 of July 25, 1904, I have the honor to report that according to the statement lately issued by the Minister of Domain, the production of petroleum in Roumania has neary doubled since 1901. According to this report there were produced in

1901, 236,000 tons

1902 322,000 tons

1903 409,000 tons

The amount of petroleum exported from Roumania in the years 1902 and 1903 was as follows:

	1903	1902
Unrefined petroleum	57,000 tons	28,964 tons
Refined petroleum	39,000 tons	39,816 tons

Benzine 20,000 tons 6,910 tons

In addition to the export trade the local consumption of petroleum has also largely increased.

The export goes on to speak of the large number of companies belonging to foreigners as well as Roumanians which are now engaged in the exploitation of petroleum in Roumania, and states that they have increased in number from 199 in 1902, to 363 in 1903, and that they are for the most part in a most satisfactory financial condition.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant

Charles S. Wilson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 087.

24

Nr. 144 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia,

November 30, 1904

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

I have the honor to confirm the telegram just sent you informing you that I propose leaving Sunday for Constantinople and Athens.

The King of Roumania returned from Sinaia on the 27th, in order to open parliament the next day and yesterday afternoon His Majesty granted me an audience which lasted an hour and a quarter. The King spoke of his admiration of the Presidents character and his pleasure at his re-election. He expressed his gratification at the fact that the American representative had of late passed more of his time in Roumania, and his regret that I felt it necessary to return to Greece for the winter. The King in common with Mr. Sturdza, Mr. Bratiano and others refers frequently to the hope that the time may soon come when the American Minister will reside permanently in Roumania, or at least make his headquarters here, if it be thought desirable to accredit one man to this country Servia and Bulgaria. Every one speaks of the impracticability of Bucharest and Athens (separated as they are by a sea journey taking from three days to a week depending upon the season and connections) being joined as one post.

The King spoke again, as he has done on several occasions, of his dislike of „trusts”, and expressed great interest as to what is being done in the United States in the direction of controlling them.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

His Majesty spoke of his sympathy with the Peace Conference proposal, and repeated what Mr. Bratiano had told me earlier in the afternoon, that the subject of arbitration was to be discussed in the next Ministerial council.

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 108.

25

Nr. 151 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Sinaia,

January 28, 1905

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

When Mr. Sturdza took office in 1901, Romania was deeply involved in financial difficulties. There was a deficit of about 60 million francs, as well as a floating debt, which had to be regulated within three years, amounting to about 175 millions. This floating debt was successfully consolidated in due session and the deficit was covered, and during the past four years the surplus revenue (excedent) has amounted to 82 million francs. All this was accomplished without any mortgaging of the national resources, as has been proposed in 1900, and for most of it Mr. Sturdza is to be thanked.

As already stated in my despatches of the 2nd and 12 th instant, Nos. 148 and 150, the resignation of Mr. Sturdza was brought about by dissension in his own party. In the Liberal party there are now two groups, each of which wishes for the control. One group collects about Mr. Costinescu, the late Minister of Finance, and is distinctly inclined to favor Germany in every practicable way. The other looks upon Mr. Bratiano, the late Minister of Foreign Affairs, as its leader and is disposed to take more independent action. In a conference which was hold shortly before Mr. Sturdza's resignation, Mr. Bratiano declared that he and his followers could (would) not vote for the budget as prepared by Mr. Costinesco, or for the ratification of the commercial treaty concluded with Germany¹⁹ last summer, which he had signed himself as minister, but which had been to a great extent the work of Mr. Costinesco. The text of this treaty has not been published in Roumania as yet, nor in Germany so far as I am aware.

Nevertheless, the position of the new Conservative Government is not entirely satisfactory. What ever may be the differences among the Liberals, it is probably that the whole party will work together at the approaching elections, and it is said that

¹⁹ Commercial convention with Germany was signed on October 8 1904, see *Istoria politicii externe românești (History of the Romanian Foreign Policy)*, Editura Enciclopedică, București, 2003, pag. 203.

the party headed by Mr. Carp, sometimes President of the Ministerial Council, has decided to make common cause with the Liberals at the elections, in opposition to the party which it claims has improperly assumed the name of Conservative. As said before, the party in power – under whose auspices the election is to be held – can usually count upon the success of its candidates. The Liberals are very hopeful, however, and it is possible that under existing conditions the elections may result in their favor and in the return of Mr. Sturdza to power. The King has always been inclined to look on Mr. Sturdza as something of a personal friend. In view of his past history and his connections with Germany, and if it could be said with propriety that His Majesty the King favors any party, that party would be the Liberal. Since Roumania became a kingdom, the Liberals have been in office considerably more than a half the time.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 119.

26

Nr. 181 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States, Bucharest,

May, 23, 1905

Honorable John Hay, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir!

I have the honor to report that I was received in audience by both the King and the Queen of Roumania, on Saturday the 20th instant.

The audience with the King lasted for a full hour and the conversation was of a general character. His Majesty's manner was agreeable and informal and there was no trace of the stand *offesliness*? which characterised my first audience two years ago. His Majesty spoke of Balkan politics generally, of the recent Roumano-Turkish incident²⁰, of affairs in Greece and of Roumanian local politics. He spoke of the necessity of a Kings actually reigning in this part of the world, and of the influence which he must maintain over the political leaders. He spoke in a very complimentary way of Mr. Sturdza, the late Prime Minister and of his performance for the Liberal Party. His Majesty spoke in particular of the difficulties connected with obtaining anything from Turkey. After five years' work permission had been obtained to land a cable coming from Constantza to somewhere on shore near the Bosphus. Now, when everything was prepared to lay the cable next week, it was found that the exact spot where it is to land

²⁰ Who led to the Sultan's decree from Mai 9th 1905, granting the national rights of the Koutzo-Wallachs in Ottoman Empire.

was not specified and it is feared that then will be still further delay. His Majesty showed the pride and interest which he has in his army a review of a part of which took place this morning – the anniversary of Roumanian independence.

My audience with the Queen preceded that with the King, and lasted for about three quarters of an hour. Her Majesty spoke at length of her philanthropic work (especially with regards to the printing of books etc, for the blind) and her interest in literature and music. She said that she has been very much hurt by receiving a letter from America, a short time ago, in which she had been called a „**Jew-Eater**”. She said that she had answered the letter, and explained she had a Jewish private secretary²¹ and other Jews in her employ and that she frequently had Jewish musicians play for her. She referred to the hard times a few years ago and to the bad crops last year (as did the King as well). **38 millions francs have been spent during the past year by the Government to keep the peasants and their cattle alive. (subl. S. C.)** This year crops promise to be good unless there should be too much rain, but the peasant will have no money to spend and trade will suffer for another year at least. As the Jews are engaged in trade Her Majesty said that she anticipated another *outcry*? in their behalf – although

²¹ Edgar Dall’Orso, who lived in str. Câmpineanu nr. 28., see *Anuarul Presei Române și al Lumei Politice 1910*, pag 42.

nothing was said or done about the peasant of Romanian race in whom she was bound to take a greater interest, when he had to clear away the snow and cut dried grass in order to keep himself from starving. As I have repeatedly stated there is no prejudice in Romania against the Jews as such any more than there is elsewhere in Europe, but they are feared on account of the same characteristics as were shown, according to a story in a recent issue of a New York paper (The Tribune) by a „Roumanian” who wished to become an American citizen and who tried to bargain for his first papers from 35 to 63 cents – a cent or two at a time – before he could be made to understand that it would be necessary for him to pay the full price: 65 five cents.

Both Their Majesties were kind enough to express regret that I am to present my letter of recall at Sinaia in July but they are evidently gratified that an American representative is to reside in Bucharest in the future.

At the review this morning all arms were represented, and the military display was ... ditable in every way.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 166 - 167.

Nr. 198 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States,

Sinaia, July 25, 1905

Honorable Elihu Root²², Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

Referring to my despatches No 68 and 190 of December 16, 1903 and June 16, 1905 respectively, I have the honor to report that the telegraph line Berlin-Bucharest-Constanza-Constantinople was formally opened yesterday, by the „Osteuropäische Kabelgesellschaft” the company to which the Black Sea Cable concession had been granted. Congratulatory telegrams were sent from Constantinople to the King of Roumania and the German Emperor, and there was a general exchange of courtesies. For the present, the price per word from Constantinople to Bucharest is 25 centimes and 20 centimes more from Bucharest to Berlin.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 203.

²² Root, Elihu (1845 - 1937) lawyer and statesman, secretary of war (1899 - 1903) where he elaborated the “Root Reforms”: the establishment of the Army War College (1901) a true general staff (1903) and the Militia Act of 1903, secretary of state (1905 - 1909). He received Nobel Peace Prize in 1912 and from 1920 to 1921 helped establish the Permanent Court for International Justice.

Nr. 202 Romanian Series

Legation of the United States,

Sinaia, July 25, 1905

Honorable Elihu Root, Secretary of State, Washington D.C.

Sir;

Again referring to the Departaments instruction No. 40, this series, of April 19th last, I have the honor to report that I presented my letter of recall to King Charles of Roumania at the Palace here this afternoon.

At this reception here, on the 20th instant, I handed the copy of the President's letter to General Lahovary, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and asked him to arrange for the delivering of the original to His Majesty. On that occasion I presented Mr. Moore to the Minister, as Secretary of the new American Legation at Bucharest, and as Charge d'Affaires ad interim pending the arrival of Mr. Riddle²³. I have also made formal application for executor for Mr. Moore in his consular capacity. Owing to the Court beeing in mourning, on account of the recent death of the King's brother,

²³ Riddle, John W., American Minister at Bucharest till 23 January 1907.

the Prince (Fürst) of Hohenzollern²⁴, I have had no opportunity to present him to His Majesty.

My audience this afternoon was of the customary informal character and lasted for an hour and a half. It had been preceded by an audience yesterday with the Queen, which was also of considerable length. In both cases the conversation was principally personal in its nature, and both Their Majesties were kind enough to express regret that my family and I are to be no longer in Romania. Political matters were also referred to however, especially the question of the Koutzo-Wallachs and the recent „Knias Potemkin” incident at Constantza²⁵. Considerable satisfaction is expressed generally at the outcome of that incident, and Roumanians as a class rejoice over it. The Queen spoke very frankly in regard to Roumanians having rendered assistance to Russia at two critical moments, in 1877, when King (then Prince) Charles led to victory the combined Roumanian, Russian and Bulgarian forces, and recently, when a danger to Black Sea commerce was quietly removed and a fine vessel restored to the Russian Navy. The Roumanians are careful to explain that the taking over of the „Knias Potemkin” to Russia was not a violation of their declaration of neutrality (Despatch No. 83, March 7, 1904)

²⁴ Leopold von Hohenzollern (1835 - 1905) died on June 8th.

²⁵ See Sorin Cristescu, 2014, pp. 369 -373.

as under existing regulations in regard to the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, it is not possible that that vessel should be of service to Russia during the war with Japan. In this connection the Queen spoke feelingly in regard to Russia's retention of Bessarabia.

I am leaving Roumania with much regret although I have been in the country but little since I presented my credentials, I have become sincerely attached to it, to its progressive and enterprising people and to its respected ruler. I have not been in a position to follow matters up in a satisfactory manner and I have accomplished but little if anything concrete. I am sure, however, that a pleasanter feeling towards Americans generally exists now than at any time since we recognized Roumanian independence, and although this may be of slight importance, it is pleasant to realize that I have contributed something toward bringing about this state of affairs. Roumania is a country with a future, one which offers great opportunities, and I am confident that considerable practical advantage will result to us from the establishment of closer and more intimate relations. I am enclined to envy my succesor.

One matter to which I referred in my despatch No.191 of the 19th ultimo, the number of naturalization during the last legislative session, is likely to be the subject of a further despatch, general

Lahovary having promised me to sent the desired information to the Legation.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

John B. Jackson

ANR, Microfilms USA, r. 21, c. 212 - 214.